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## CS 653 The Poor in John Wesley's Social Ethics

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**ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-FLORIDA**  
**SUMMER 2008 ( JUNE 2-6, 2008)**  
**CS653: THE POOR IN JOHN WESLEY'S SOCIAL ETHICS**

**3 HRS. CREDIT**

**Instructor: Hugo Magallanes, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor Christianity and Cultures**  
**SMU-Perkins School of Theology**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

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**PURPOSE:**

To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs of the poor and other marginalized groups in society and church. To provide Wesleyan foundations, ethical and theological, to equip ministers and their congregations for understanding their moral responsibility toward the poor and the oppressed. To assist in developing practical applications and tentative responses to poverty related issues.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Develop a Wesleyan identity of solidarity with the poor.
- Explain Wesley's commitment to serve the poor in the light of his writings, life, and ministry.
- Integrate Wesley's commitments to our present reality.
- Develop tentative responses to poverty related issues from a Wesleyan perspective.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Heitzenrater, Richard P. *The Poor and the People Called Methodists*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2002.

Jennings, Theodore W. Jr. *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1990.

Marquardt, Manfred. *John Wesley's Social Ethics*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1992.

Meeks, Douglas M., ed. *The Portion of the Poor: Good News to the Poor in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1995.

Snyder, Howard A. *The Radical Wesley And Patterns for Church Renewal*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1996.

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Wesley, John. "XXVIII Sermon on the Mount" "XXXVIII A Caution Against Bigotry" "XXXIX Catholic Spirit" "XLVIII Self-Denial" "L The Use of Money" "LI The Good Steward" "LXXIV Of the Church" "LXXXVII The Danger of Riches" "XCI On Charity" "XCVIII On Visiting the Sick" "CVIII On Riches" "CXII The Rich Man and Lazarus" "CXXVI On the Danger of Increasing Riches" "CXXXIX On Love" "Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions" "Thoughts upon Slavery" in *The Works of John Wesley*. Vols. 5,6, 7,11. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998

These Sermons may be accessed on the Internet at:

<http://gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/>

or

[http://wesley.nnu.edu/john\\_wesley/sermons/](http://wesley.nnu.edu/john_wesley/sermons/)

#### **RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Abelove, Henry. *The Evangelist of Desire: John Wesley and the Methodists*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1990.
- Baker, Frank. *John Wesley and the Church of England*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1970.
- Bready, J.W. *England Before and After Wesley*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. London: Oxford, 1939.
- Edwards, M. *After Wesley: A Study of the Social Political Influence of Methodism in the Middle Period (1791-1849)*. London: Oxford, 1948.
- Eli, R. George. *Social Holiness: John Wesley's Thinking on Christian Community and its Relationship to Social Order*. New York: P Lang Pubs, 1993.
- Halévy, E. *The Birth of Methodism in England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1971.
- Heitzenrater, Richard P. *Mirror and Memory: Reflections on Early Methodism*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1989.
- . *Wesley and the People Called Methodists*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.
- Hempton, David Neil. *Methodism and Politics in British Society, 1750-1850*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1984.
- Hulley, Leonard D. *Wesley: A Plain Man for Plain People*. Westville, South Africa: Methodist Church of South Africa, 1987.
- Hynson, Leon O. *To Reform the Nation: Theological Foundations of Wesley's Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Maddox, Randy L., ed. *Responsible Grace: John Wesley's Practical Theology*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 1994.
- Rack, Henry D. *Reasonable Enthusiast: John Wesley and the Rise of Methodism*. London: Epworth Press, 1989.
- Semmel, Bernard. *The Methodist Revolution*. New York: Basic Books, 1972.
- Sturm, Roy A. *Sociological Reflections on John Wesley and Methodism*. Indianapolis: Central Publishing, 1982.
- Tabraham, Barrie W. *The Making of Methodism*. London: Epworth Press, 1995.
- Thompson, E. P. *The Making of the English Working Class*. New York: Penguin Books, 1968.
- Thompson, D. D. *John Wesley as a Social Reformer*. Manchester: Ayer, 1898.

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Warner, Wellman J. *Wesleyan Movement in the Industrial Revolution*. Berkeley: Russell, 1967.

#### **EVALUATION:**

35% “Foundations” Paper: 5-6 pages limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).

35% “Application” Paper: 5-6 pages limit (without counting page(s) for endnotes).

30% Final Examination (Take Home Exam)

Debit: For inadequate class participation.

**Grade Range:** Work for this class will be evaluated according to ATS standards (see catalog).

*A = 95-100% Unusually high quality, exceptional work      D+ = 67-69% Minimal work*

*A- = 90-94% Far above average, fine work      D = 63-66% barely acceptable*

*B+= 87-89% Above average for graduate work      D- = 60-62% for specific assignment*

*B = 83-86% Very good, average for graduate work      F = below 60% Failure.*

*B- = 80-82% Slightly below average for graduate work*

*C+ = 77-79% Meets requirements, but noticeable inadequacies for graduate work*

*C = 73-76% Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work*

*C- = 70-72% Meets requirements, but serious gaps*

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

**“Foundations” Paper:** In this research paper the student is asked to identify, explain, and analyze some of the key ethical/theological foundations of John Wesley’s commitment to serve the poor. As part of this analysis the student should present an overview of Wesley’s social context and the interdependence between Wesley’s work and social reform. **Due: June 5, 2008**

**“Application” Paper:** Based on the above paper, the student will develop a tentative response to issues of poverty and a practical application for his/her ministry setting. The student is expected to give an overview description of the social context of his/her place of ministry and to apply Wesley’s ethical/theological foundations in his/her context. **Due: June 12, 2008**

**Final Examination:** The Final Exam will be a 48 hr. take-home exam. On the date of the final exam, each student will receive 5 questions and will be required to answer 3 of them. In each answer the student is expected to write a “short essay” response in which he/she will integrate and articulate the material discussed in class as well as other relevant sources. Each “short essay” should be 3 to 5 pages long. No more than 5 pages! (Page limits do not include endnotes or footnotes).

**Written Work:** ALL written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Please follow page limit requirements. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. Late papers will not receive feedback. Papers are on assigned date. ALL written work MUST use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (female and male). This provides for

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both greater inclusion and greater precision. For more information on this topic see “Suggestions for Using Inclusive Language” at the resource center located in the course icon.

For style and form of BOTH written papers AND final exam use and follow:

\*Ballou, Stephen Vaughan, William Giles Campbell, and Carol Slade. *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, Theses*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. [or newer] Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1994.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Session 1 (June 2)**

#### **Introductions and Wesley’s Notion of Christian Responsibility**

Required Readings:

Wesley’s Sermons: “XXVIII Sermon on the Mount” “XXXVIII A Caution Against Bigotry” “XXXIX Catholic Spirit” “XLVIII Self-Denial” “L The Use of Money” “LI The Good Steward” “LXXIV Of the Church” “LXXXVII The Danger of Riches” “XCI On Charity” “XCVIII On Visiting the Sick” “CVIII On Riches” “CXII The Rich Man and Lazarus” “CXXVI On the Danger of Increasing Riches” “CXXXIX On Love” “Thoughts on the Present Scarcity of Provisions” “Thoughts upon Slavery”

### **Session 2 (June 3)**

#### **Wesley’s Work Among the Poor and His Moral Foundations**

Required Readings:

Heitzenrater, *The Poor and The People Called Methodists*. Entire Text.

#### **The Great Debate: Did Wesley Save England From Revolution?**

### **Session 3 (June 4)**

#### **An Interpretation of Wesley’s Views**

Required Readings:

Jennings, *Good News to the Poor*. Entire Text

#### **The Poor in the Wesleyan Traditions**

Required Readings:

Meeks, *The Portion of the Poor*. Entire Text

### **Session 4 (June 5)**

#### **Social Ethics in Wesleyan Perspective**

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Required Readings:

Marquardt, *John Wesley's Social Ethics*. Entire Text

### **Session 5 (June 6)**

#### **Conclusions and Implications**

Required Readings:

Snyder, Howard A. *The Radical Wesley And Patterns for Church Renewal*. Entire Text

**The Final Exam will be distributed on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. And it should be returned by regular mail postmarked by Thursday, June 19, 2008 (Obviously before the post office closes that day) or by e-mail to e-mail address which will be given to students in class.**